bat Aircraft are detrimental to the development of scientific research in our country and the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore; and

(b) what is Government's assessment regarding reliability of US, in the context of its attitude in supplying enriched uranium for Tarapur Atomic Power Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir

(b) In the light of the Indo-US Memorandum of Understanding and assessment of all factors connected with export control administration by the Govt. of USA, there is reasonable confidence in the reliability of the USA in the concerned areas of high technology

Applications for telephone connections in Cuttack District

2270 SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications received for new telephone connections in the Cuttack District of Orissa, during the last two years and the number of those which have been given connections; and

(b) by when all the applicants are likely to be given telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) During the two years ending 31-10-86, 2029 applications for new telephone connections were received in Cuttack District of Orissa and during this period 903 connections were given

(b) All the applicants on waiting list as on 31-10-86 are likely to be given telephone connections within the next three years.

Opening of Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchanges in Cuttack District

2271. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state what is the target for opening new post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges in the Cuttack District of Orissa during 1985-86 and 1986-87 and the number of those which have already been opened upto 31st October, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): *Post offices*—On account of the continuing ban on creation of posts, no programme of opening of new post offices has been implemented during 1985-86 or, so far, during 1986-87 in Orissa Circle or in other Postal Circles. As on 31-10-1986, 7535 post offices were functioning in Orissa Circle out of which 6989 were in rural areas and 546 in urban areas

Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchange—During 1985-86 10 telegraph offices and 6 telephone exchanges were opened in Orissa a Circle The target for 1986-87 for telegraph offices is 10 and that for telephone exchanges is 3 Upto 31-10-86, 3 telegraph offices were opened.

2272 [*Transferred to the* 5th *December*, 1986]

Standing Committee of Voluntary Organisations for pensioners

2273 PROF C LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have appointed a Standing Committee of Voluntary Organisations of pensioners (SCOVA) to advise the Ministry of Pensions on various problems relating to pensioners and family pensioners in the country,

(b) if so, what are the names of members of the said committee indicating its terms of reference and what are the tenures and privileges of the members and the organisations they represent, and